

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
LYNCHBURG DIVISION**

10/3/2023

LAURA A. AUSTIN, CLERK

BY: s/ ARLENE LITTLE
DEPUTY CLERK

Michele Blair

)

)

v.

)

Civil Action No. 6:23CV00047

)

Appomattox County School Board, et al.

)

PRETRIAL ORDER

*The court proposes the following as a pretrial order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b). If no party files a motion requesting changes within 10 days, it will constitute the scheduling order in this case. The court may amend the order on its own motion. **The parties may amend the order's disclosure and discovery provisions by submitting an agreed written plan that satisfies the requirements of Rule 26(f).***

Summary

TRIAL DATE: Contact Carmen Amos, scheduling clerk, by email at carmena@vawd.uscourts.gov, within 14 days of this order for the purpose of setting a trial date.¹

PLACE: UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
1101 Court Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504

FED.R.CIV.P.26(f) CONFERENCE:	14 days from this order
INITIAL DISCLOSURES UNDER FED.R.CIV.P.26(a):	30 days from this order
PLAINTIFF(S) INITIAL EXPERT DISCLOSURE:	75 days from this order
DEFENDANT(S) INITIAL EXPERT DISCLOSURE:	90 days from this order
DEADLINE TO COMPLETE DISCOVERY:	90 days before trial date
DEADLINE TO FILE DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS:	75 days before trial date
DEADLINE FOR HEARING DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS:	45 days before trial date

¹ If trial is continued to a date later than that initially set, the submission deadlines dealing with discovery completion and dispositive motions will apply as to the new trial date.

Trial and Settlement

1. This case is set for a jury trial.
2. Proposed jury instructions and special interrogatories must be filed with the clerk of the court at least 7 days prior to trial, with copies provided to opposing counsel.
3. Motions in limine must be filed with the clerk of court at least 14 days prior to trial, with copies provided to opposing counsel. Opposition briefs to any motion in limine must be filed with the clerk of the court at least 7 days prior to trial.
4. If the case settles before trial and the court does not receive a proposed final order within 30 days after the court received oral or written notification of the settlement, the court will dismiss the case with prejudice.

Motions

5. All dispositive motions must be filed no later than 75 days before trial and must be heard or submitted for decision no later than 45 days before trial. If the parties agree that a dispositive motion is appropriate for decision without oral argument they must file a stipulation no later than 45 days before trial stating that the motion is ripe for decision.
6. A supporting brief must accompany all pretrial motions, unless the motion contains the legal argument necessary to support it or is certified to be unopposed. If a motion that is not unopposed has been filed before this order without legal argument to support it, the movant must file a supporting brief within 14 days of the date of this order or the motion will be dismissed.
7. If any motion, properly filed and briefed, is to be opposed, a brief in opposition must be filed within 14 days of the date of service of the movant's brief (or within 14 days of this order if a motion and supporting brief were served before this order). Except for good cause shown, if a brief opposing a motion is not timely filed, the court will consider the motion to be

unopposed. If a moving party desires to submit a reply brief, it must be filed within 7 days of the date of service of the brief opposing the motion. A surreply brief may not be filed without prior leave of the court.

8. Exclusive of any accompanying exhibits, a brief may not exceed 25 pages in length using standard margins, double-spaced lines, and a font no smaller than 12-point Times, unless the filing party first obtains leave of the court after showing good cause why a longer brief is necessary.

9. When a dispositive motion, together with its supporting brief and exhibits (or any other brief combined with exhibits), consists of 50 or more pages, the filing party must send a paper courtesy copy of the documents to the chambers of the presiding District Judge at 1101 Court Street, Room 390, Lynchburg, VA 24504.

10. No motion, brief, or exhibit may be filed under seal, except as allowed by the mandatory provisions of W.D. Va. Gen. R. 9. The requirements of Rule 9 may not be modified by a stipulated protective order or other agreement of the parties. *See* W.D. Va. Gen. R. 9(g).

11. If any party desires a hearing on any dispositive or nondispositive motion, then no later than 14 days after the filing of the last brief on the motion, that party must contact Carmen Amos, scheduling clerk, to set a hearing date. If no hearing on the motion is necessary, the moving party must file a notice that the motion is ripe for decision, no later than 14 days after the filing of the last brief on the motion. In any event, if within 45 days of the filing of any dispositive or nondispositive pretrial motion, no party has scheduled the motion for hearing or advised the court that the motion is ripe for decision, the court may deny the motion with or without prejudice.

12. Nondispositive motions, including motions for enlargement of time, whether or not opposed, may be acted upon at any time by the court, without awaiting a response, and any party adversely affected by such action may request reconsideration, vacation or modification.

13. Until a new United States Magistrate Judge is selected for the Lynchburg Division, non-dispositive pretrial matters in this case should, in the first instance, be directed to the presiding District Judge.

Discovery

14. Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, within 14 days of the date of this Order, the parties must confer and develop a discovery plan as required by Rule 26(f).

15. Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, initial disclosures as required by Rule 26(a)(1) must be made within 30 days of the date of this Order.

16. All discovery must be completed at least 90 days prior to trial. This schedule requires that written discovery be served in sufficient time to allow the responding party time to respond before the cutoff date for discovery.

17. Except for disclosures under Rule 26(a)(3) of trial witnesses and exhibits, which the parties **must** file, the parties are not to file discovery and disclosure material unless and until actually used in the proceeding.

Expert Witnesses

18. Expert witnesses who are retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony in the case or whose duties as an employee of the party regularly involve giving expert testimony must prepare a written report that conforms to the requirements of Rule 26(a)(2)(B). Unless the parties otherwise agree or the court otherwise directs, the plaintiff must submit the written report of each expert not later than 75 days from the date of this order, and the defendant must submit the written report of each expert no later than 90 days from the date of this order. Supplemental and additional reports may be thereafter submitted, if submitted “in sufficient time”

that discovery, if desired, can be completed reasonably by the discovery cutoff date without undue duplication and expense.

19. With respect to expert witnesses who are not retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony or whose duties as an employee of the party do not regularly involve giving expert testimony, such as a treating physician or clinician, the plaintiff must disclose the identity of any such witness and provide a summary of all opinions the witness will render and the basis therefore not later than 75 days from the date of this order, and the defendant must disclose the identity of any such witness and provide a summary of all opinions the witness will render and the basis therefore not later than 90 days from the date of this order. Supplemental and additional disclosures may be thereafter submitted, if submitted “in sufficient time” that discovery, if desired, can be completed reasonably by the discovery cutoff date without undue duplication and expense.

20. Any motion to exclude the testimony of an expert based on the sufficiency or reliability of the expert’s testimony must be filed no later than the deadline for filing motions for summary judgment.

Witness Lists and Anticipated Testimony Summaries

21. The parties shall exchange lists of the witnesses they expect to call at trial no later than 21 days prior to trial. For each witness, the list shall include the witness’s name and address and a summary of the witness’s anticipated testimony.

Mediation

22. At the request of any party, the court may refer the case to the magistrate judge to conduct mediation.

Joinder of Other Parties

23. The court shall consider motions to join other parties in accordance with Rules 19, 20, and 21 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Except for good cause shown, any such motion must be filed no later than 45 days from the date of this order.

Amendment of Pleadings

24. The court shall consider a party's motion to amend pleadings in accordance with Rule 15 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Except for good cause shown, any such motion must be filed no later than 45 days from the date of this order.

Integrated Pretrial Order

25. No later than 7 days before trial the parties shall jointly file a proposed pretrial order briefly summarizing the following:

- any contested issues of law that require a ruling before trial;
- the essential elements that a party must prove to establish any meritorious claims remaining for adjudication, and the damages or other relief sought;
- the essential elements that a party must prove to establish any meritorious defenses;
- the material facts and theories of liability or defense;
- the issues of fact contested by each party;
- any contested issues of law that do not require a ruling before trial;
- any stipulations; and
- any special voir dire questions.

For those items, if any, on which the parties are unable to agree, each party shall briefly summarize its position in a separately filed addendum to the joint proposed pretrial order.

It is so **ORDERED**.

ENTERED this 3rd day of October, 2023.



NORMAN K. MOON
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE